

ensen Garff, born May 5, 1852, at Hosned, H. S., who were staunch converts from Denmark. He married Tryphena Brimhall on December 19, 1895, in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born October 24, 1870, daughter of George Washington and Rachel Ann Meyer Brimhall, of German parentage. She was from Bucyrus, Ohio.

George Garff died February 21, 1928, and Tryphena died May 30, 1961, at the age of 90.

George's parents moved to Draper, Utah, when he was three years old, where they engaged in farming and fruit raising. Here he completed his early education and participated in Church activities.

As a young man he had outstanding athletic ability in baseball, football, running, shotput and track sports, and he believed in clean sports. He also had a natural talent for music.

He was 6 feet 1 inch, had a soldierly bearing and athletic physique, was light complexioned, with kind, blue eyes.

He studied at the U. of U. and the USAC. He met Tryphena, who was a teacher at the preparatory school at the BYA, when he was attending school there. After they were married he taught in the Draper public schools, being very popular with the students. Six months after their marriage they were called to fill a mission to the Hawaiian Islands, to teach in the Church school in Laie, which they accepted, leaving Salt Lake on May 5, 1896.

One experience he valued highly in this mission was in attending a conference on the leper island of Molokai, where, through fasting and prayer, he was able to speak to those people in their language, through the gift of tongues, for 48 minutes. He always was grateful for this divine favor. They served two and one-half years and were released because of Tryphena's ill health. They arrived home in November, 1898.

That winter, Sister Garff's brother, George H. Brimhall, informed them of a teaching position in Wallsburg. George accepted and Tryphena and two children went to Spanish Fork to stay with her mother. In the following summer, George accepted the principalship of the school and moved to Wallsburg.

On May 11, 1903, Brother Garff was or-

dained a High Priest and was set apart by Elder Rudger Clawson to be bishop of Wallsburg Ward.

A very serious accident happened to Brother Garff shortly after being made bishop. He and 20 others went into the canyon in June to try to open a road into Strawberry country. He and his counselor, William A. Nuttall, attempted to move a boulder in the stream. As he did so a pistol fastened to his belt fell from its holster and discharged. He had been impressed to fasten it more securely, but didn't take heed. It fell handle down, hit a rock and discharged, the bullet entering his right breast and coming out under his shoulder blade. A thought immediately flashed through his mind of what he had said shortly after he was made bishop: "I would rather die than to be a block in the wheel."

Brother Nuttall was very anxious to go after the other men. Bishop Garff said: "No, stay with me until the end." Nuttall made him as comfortable as possible under a tree and as Bishop Garff lay there, darkness seemed to close in around him. He felt that when it was completely closed that would be the end of his life. The darkness closed in like a circle, but remained open just above him. As he observed its remaining open and saw the light in the opening, he received the assurance that he would live. Then he let Brother Nuttall go for the men and said he never saw anyone go so fast in all his life. They got him to the doctor, who said his only chance for life was because his body was clean. Through the power of the priesthood and faith and prayers of the ward members he was spared. In three weeks time he attended quarterly conference, where President J. R. Murdock called on him to speak.

He discontinued being principal and engaged in the mercantile business and farming. Although he had many responsibilities in community activities, his church work came first.

He encouraged music, sports, dancing and dramatics. Baseball teams and those in other sports used his pasture land. He organized celebrations for the 4th and 24th of July. His wife was right along with him in these activities and made gallons of ice cream for these events.

She entertained visiting Church visitors